

## JOINT RULES OF THE TWO HOUSES.

---

### DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO HOUSES.

1. In every case of an amendment in one house, and dissented to by the other, if either house shall request a conference and appoint a committee for that purpose, and the other house shall appoint a committee to confer, such committee shall, at a convenient hour to be agreed on by their chairman, meet in their conference chamber and state to each other, verbally or in writing, as either shall choose, the reasons of their respective houses for and against the amendment and confer freely thereon.

2. After each house shall have adhered to their disagreement, a bill or resolution is lost.

3. When a bill or resolution which shall have passed in one house is rejected in the other, notice thereof is to be given to the house in which the same may have passed.

### COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO HOUSES.

4. When a message shall be sent from the Senate to the House of Representatives, it shall be announced at the door of the House by the Doorkeeper, and shall be respectfully communicated to the Chair by the person by whom it may be sent.

5. The same ceremony shall be observed when a message shall be sent from the House of Representatives to the Senate.

6. All messages relating to the passage, substitution or amendment of any bill, resolution or other matter in passage between the two houses shall be sent by such person as a sense of propriety in each house may determine to be proper, and shall be in writing, on but one side of separate sheet or sheets of paper, and shall be properly addressed to the presiding officer of the house to which the message be sent, and shall be signed by the person delivering the same, in his official capacity; and such message, as written, shall be printed in full in the Journal of the house receiving same.

7. While bills and resolutions are on their passage between the two houses, they shall be on paper and under the signature of the Secretary or Clerk of each house, respectively.

8. Each house transmits to the other all papers on which any bill or resolution may be founded.

#### CONSIDERATION OF BILLS IN THE RESPECTIVE HOUSES AND THE FINAL PASSAGE THEREOF.

9. When any Senate bill shall be reached upon the calendar or shall be before the Senate for consideration, it shall be the duty of the President to give the place of such bill on the calendar to any House bill which has been referred to and reported from a committee of the Senate containing the same subject, or to lay such House bill before the Senate to be considered in lieu of such Senate bill.

10. When any House bill shall be reached upon the calendar or shall be before the House for consideration, it shall be the duty of the Speaker to

give the place of such House bill on the calendar to any Senate bill which has been referred to and reported from a committee of the House containing the same subject, or to lay such Senate bill before the House to be considered in lieu of such House bill.

11. No bill shall be considered unless it has first been referred to a committee and reported thereon; and no bill shall be passed which has not been presented and referred to and reported from a committee at least three days before the final adjournment of the Legislature. (Constitution, Article III, Section 37.) And no vote shall be taken upon the passage of any bill within the last twenty-four hours of the session, unless it be to correct an error therein.

#### ENROLLING AND SIGNING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS AND THEIR PRESENTATION TO THE GOVERNOR.

12. After a bill shall have passed both houses, it shall be duly enrolled on paper by the Enrolling Clerk of the House of Representatives or of the Senate, as the bill may have originated in the one or the other house, and properly signed by the presiding officer of each house, as required by the Constitution, before it shall be presented to the Governor.

13. When bills are enrolled they may be examined by a joint committee of three from the Senate and three from the House of Representatives, appointed as a standing committee for that purpose, who shall carefully compare the enrollment with the engrossed bills as passed in the houses, and

carefully correcting any errors that may be discovered in the enrolled bills, make their report forthwith to the respective houses.

14. After examination and report, each bill shall be signed in the respective houses—first by the presiding officer of the house in which it originates, then by the presiding officer of the other house, in accordance with Article III, Section 38, of the Constitution.

15. After a bill shall have thus been signed in each house, it shall be presented to the Governor for his approbation by the Enrolling Committee of the house in which it originated, it being first endorsed on the back of the roll, certifying in which house the same originated, which endorsement shall be signed by the Secretary or Clerk, as the case may be, of the house in which the same did originate, and shall be entered on the Journal of such house. The said committee shall report the day of presentation to the Governor, which time shall be carefully entered on the Journal of the House in which the bill originated.

16. All orders, resolutions and votes which are to be presented to the Governor of the State for his approbation shall also, in the same manner, be previously enrolled, examined and signed, and shall be presented in the same manner and by the same committee as provided in the case of bills; and said report shall be accompanied by a copy of said bill as a part of said report, which said copy may be typewritten or printed, partly written and printed, or written and partly printed, and, unless it is a local

bill, it shall be printed in the Journal of the House or Senate to which said report is made.

#### ELECTIONS BY JOINT VOTE OF THE TWO HOUSES.

17. In all elections by joint vote of the two houses of the Legislature, the Senate will, upon invitation, meet the House in its Hall at the hour agreed upon. The President of the Senate shall take a seat at the right of the Speaker, and the Senators shall take seats in front of the Speaker's desk. The Speaker of the House will preside. The names of the Senators shall then be alphabetically called, after which the names of the Representatives shall be called in like manner, and if a quorum of both houses answer to their names the two houses will proceed with the business for which they have met. The President of the Senate shall first call for nominations by Senators, and the Speaker of the House shall then call for nominations by Representatives. Nominations being made, the names of the Senators shall be called by the Secretary and their votes recorded by him. The names of the Representatives shall then be called by the Clerk, and their votes recorded by him, and the result shall be handed to and announced by the Speaker. Should a majority be required to elect, and no person receives a majority, the voting shall be repeated until an election is made. After the conclusion of the election for which the two houses have met in joint session, the Senate shall retire to its Chamber, and the result of the joint vote shall be entered on the Journal of each house.

18. If a quorum of either house shall fail to attend a joint session, or absent themselves therefrom without the permission of such house, the members of the house so wanting a quorum, if ten in number, shall have the right to compel the attendance of the absentees in accordance with its own rules; and after a reasonable time, if a quorum is not obtained, the joint session may be adjourned by the vote of a majority of the members of either house, which vote shall be taken by the presiding officer of either house, on the motion of any one of its members, without debate.

19. If no choice shall have been made on the first ballot or vote, at any time thereafter, the joint session may be adjourned, with or without naming another day for meeting, by the vote of a majority of either house, which vote shall be taken by the presiding officer of either house, on the motion of any one of its members, without delay.

#### MEMBERS COMPOSING CONFERENCE COMMITTEES.

20. In all conferences between the Senate and the House by committee, the number of each committee shall be five (5), and all votes on matters of difference shall be taken by each committee separately, and it shall require a majority of each committee present concurring upon the matter in dispute to determine it. The reports of all conference committees must be signed by a majority of each committee of the conference.

## NOTIFICATION OF DEFEATED MEASURE.

21. When a bill, joint or concurrent resolution has been defeated in the Senate or in the House, the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House, as the case may be, shall immediately notify the other house of the defeat of said bill or resolution and transmit a copy of the same.

## HOUSE AND SENATE BILL DAYS.

22. In the Senate, on Wednesday and Thursday of each week, only House bills on their third and second readings, respectively, shall be taken up and considered until disposed of, and in case one should be pending at adjournment, it shall go over to the succeeding day (Friday) as unfinished business; and this rule cannot be suspended without the consent of the House.

23. In the House, on Wednesday and Thursday of each week, only Senate bills on their third and second readings, respectively, shall be taken up and considered until disposed of, and in case one shall be pending at adjournment, it shall go over to the succeeding day (Friday) as unfinished business; and this rule cannot be suspended without the consent of the Senate.

## JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

24. During the Regular Session of the Legislature the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall upon the request of the author cause to be placed on the calendar of their respective Houses, for consideration each day

after the morning call, any and all pending joint resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Texas, and no other bills or resolutions shall be considered, on any particular day, until all such joint resolutions are finally disposed of by the House before which such resolutions are pending.

#### INTRODUCTION AND ACTION ON BILLS.

25. It shall be in order to introduce bills or resolutions in the Senate and House as heretofore determined by the rules of each House respectively and have the same referred to a proper committee, each House fixing their own time limits.

26. After the time for the introduction of bills and resolutions in either House as determined by its own rules no bills or resolutions shall be introduced except local bills as hereinafter defined, emergency appropriations, acting upon appointees of the Governor (whether recess appointments or otherwise) and all emergency matters submitted by the Governor in special messages to the Legislature, unless otherwise directed by an affirmative record vote of four-fifths of the membership of the House in which the bill is first introduced.

27. Local bills may be introduced at any time and considered at any time by the committee to which they have been referred and reported by said committee and considered and disposed of by the House in which said bill is pending in the due order of business as determined by the general rules of the House in which the bill is pending. A local bill is



defined for the purposes of this rule as an act the provisions of which relate to or affect directly a defined locality, district or section of the State but which does not affect directly the State at large, and the operation of which is confined to a particular locality, district or section of the State.

28. Local bills, emergency appropriations, acting upon the appointees of the Governor (whether recess appointments or otherwise) and all emergency matters submitted by the Governor in special messages to the Legislature may be considered and disposed of at any time by either House under the general rules and order of business.

29. During the period fixed by each House respectively, under the rules of each House respectively and in the due order of business, either House may take up, consider and dispose of any bill not of the nature named in the foregoing Rule IV, by an affirmative record vote of four-fifths of the membership, or in accordance with the rules of the House in which said bill is pending.

30. It shall be in order for committees to consider bills at any time during the session, their reports and the consideration by either House in accordance with the rules of the House in which said bill is pending.

When any bill shall have been finally acted upon by either branch of the Legislature, and shall have been transmitted to the other, said bill shall be by the presiding officer thereof referred to an appropriate committee, and it shall not be necessary to

be voted upon as a prerequisite to its consideration by the receiving branch.

31. In reckoning the time within which a bill has been introduced, the date of its first introduction in either House shall govern.

#### APPROPRIATION BILLS.

32. For and during the term of the Forty-fourth Legislature only, it shall be mandatory upon the Finance Committee of the Senate and the Appropriations Committee of the House and the presiding officer of each of said respective bodies to report out to each of said two Houses all general appropriation bills for the biennium ending August 31, 1937, on or before April 16, 1935; and the consideration of such bills shall be the first order of business in each House until finally acted upon